

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Statue of Liberty. The statue is shown in silhouette, with its right arm raised high holding a torch and its left arm holding a tablet. The sun is positioned behind the statue's head, creating a bright, glowing effect. The sky is a deep blue with scattered white clouds.

Constituent Work Week Kit

JANUARY 2011

DEAR REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUE,

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate you once again for being a special part of the historic 112th Congress. Over the past four weeks, you, your family and your staff played an important role in helping House Republicans begin fulfilling the Pledge to America. On behalf of the Republican House Leadership, “Thank you!”

The 112th Congress began with the adoption of a House rules package that fundamentally changed the way the House works. We now require legislation to cite Constitutional authority, we require that the American people have an opportunity to read legislation before we vote on it and we changed budget enforcement rules that for too long prioritized the federal budget over the family budget. Finally, we rooted the 112th Congress in the Constitution when we required a reading of that, founding document in the well of the House. What a historic moment that many of us were able to share together!

We have immediately focused our legislative attention to spending cuts and job creation. We fundamentally changed Washington’s spending culture. Earmarks have been banned. Instead of coming to Washington to create programs and increase job-killing spending, House Republicans began our weekly assault on Washington spending by cutting our own budget, and we’ve followed each week by cutting other wasteful spending. We voted to cut trillions in new ObamaCare spending and began fulfilling our Pledge to America by immediately reducing non-security spending to pre-bailout, pre-stimulus levels.

Perhaps the most important choice we made for both the fiscal and physical health of America was the bipartisan vote to repeal ObamaCare. Not only did we vote to repeal trillions of dollars in new spending, we showed America’s small businesses that we are committed to removing Washington’s barriers to job creation. We also began the process of replacing a government-run health system with solutions to our nation’s health care challenges that do not harm our economy.

I am proud of the first steps we have taken to increase the size of opportunity that we leave to our children and grandchildren.

Have a great Constituent Work Week, and let’s continue listening to the American people.

Yours respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeb Hensarling". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "J" and "H".

Jeb Hensarling

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“Here sir, the people govern.”

Alexander Hamilton

**“In matters of style swim with the
current, in matters of principle stand
like a rock!”**

Thomas Jefferson

**“But a Constitution of Government
once changed from Freedom, can never
be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost
forever.”**

John Adams

**“We must all hang together, or
assuredly we will all hang separately”**

Benjamin Franklin

THE PLEDGE IS THE PLAN.

Having been entrusted with the majority in the House of Representatives, Republicans took the first steps to fulfill the Pledge to America, by...



Changing the Way Congress Works

- We are requiring every bill to cite its specific Constitutional Authority.
- We require legislation to be publicly available for at least 3 days before voting on it.
- We changed budget enforcement rules to make spending cuts easier and spending hikes harder.



Cutting Spending Immediately

- We cut Congress' budget by 5%, showing American families that we are serious about ending the job-killing Washington spending binge and making the tough choices needed to put our nation back on a path of fiscal responsibility.
- We kept our commitment to hold weekly votes to cut spending.
- We adopted a resolution reducing non-security spending to pre-bailout, pre-stimulus FY08 levels or less.



Repealing ObamaCare

- In a bipartisan vote on a simple, two-page bill, we repealed ObamaCare and its job-killing mandates and spending.
- House Republicans voted to cut \$2.6 trillion in new spending and reduce deficits by \$700 billion by repealing the Democrats' job-destroying health care takeover.
- We set the stage for committees to work in a transparent process to debate real solutions to our nation's health care challenges that won't hurt our economy by destroying jobs.

CHANGING THE WAY CONGRESS WORKS

To keep our Pledge to America, House Republicans made significant reforms to the way Congress conducts its business.

Some of these reforms include: a requirement that all introduced bills must cite constitutional authority; a requirement that the public must have at least 3 days to view all bills online before the House votes on them; and changing budget enforcement rules to make spending cuts easier and spending hikes harder.

These reforms will reinforce the rule of law and spending restraint that has been lacking in recent Congresses.

Additionally, our legislative calendar for this year is designed to reestablish certainty to the process of legislating and better connect us with our constituents through regular constituent work weeks.

When we are in session, there will be a renewed focus on and protection of committee time, which allows the House of Representatives to conduct its vital mission of oversight, forcing transparency into the workings of the oversized federal government. We believe this committee time will also reintroduce civility and foster bipartisanship in the legislating that we were sent here to do.

Speaker Boehner lamented last year, “One of the reasons why Americans have such little confidence in Congress is because of the practice of rushing massive, expensive bills to a vote without giving lawmakers or the American people time to read them. This is the people’s House: ‘read the bill’ should not be just an afterthought – it should be the first and only thought.”

It is our duty to change this attitude in the 112th Congress and restore the reputation of this historic institution that we are so privileged to serve.

CUT SPENDING & CREATE JOBS

In the first month of the 112th Congress, Republicans have already voted to cut job-killing spending by trillions of dollars.

Last Congress, Democrats came to Washington to expand the cost and size of government. Republicans are fundamentally changing the culture of Congress by voting each week to cut spending and reduce the size of government.

House Republicans have already passed legislation to reduce government spending by trillions of dollars, including the following:

- House Republicans led by example by cutting our own budgets by 5 percent, saving \$35 million each year (H.Res. 22).
- House Republicans have banned all earmarks. (House Republican Conference Rules for the 112th Congress).
- House Republicans voted to reduce new spending by \$2.6 trillion over ten years and reduce the deficit by \$700 billion when we repealed ObamaCare.
 - \$2.6 trillion = \$22,643 per household
 - \$700 billion = \$6,096 per household
- House Republicans voted to cut current government spending back to FY 2008 levels or less, which will reduce non-security discretionary spending to pre-stimulus, pre-bailout levels (H.Res. 38).
- House Republicans voted to end the taxpayer funding of presidential election campaigns and party conventions, saving \$617 million (H.R. 359).
- House Republicans voted to end the wasteful mandatory printing of bills introduced in Congress, saving the American taxpayers \$35 million (H.R. 292).

If the Democrats want us to pay for their job-killing spending spree, then we're going to insist on meaningful spending cuts and reforms to ensure we keep on cutting.

REPEALING OBAMACARE

We followed through on another element of our Pledge to America by repealing ObamaCare, the job-killing government takeover of healthcare. On Wednesday, January 19th, the House repealed ObamaCare with bipartisan support by a vote of 245-189.

Last year, Democrats used closed-door deals to pass a healthcare takeover despite broad opposition from the American people. Because the new healthcare law kills jobs, raises taxes, expands government control, and increases the cost of health care, we took immediate action to repeal this law.

The American people did not want a 2,801-page bill that increases uncertainty in the economy. The election last November sent a loud message to Washington that the American people want the Democrats' massive government takeover of healthcare repealed.

We passed a simple, two-page bill to repeal the job-killing healthcare law. Members were able to go on record as either for repeal or against it—plainly demonstrating their position on federally-managed healthcare.

Yet the work is only just beginning.

REPLACING OBAMACARE

WITH BETTER SOLUTIONS

House Republicans have pledged to reduce costs and make healthcare more accessible by replacing ObamaCare with solutions to our health care challenges that won't hurt our economy by destroying jobs.








That is why we passed H. Res. 9, which instructs the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Ways and Means to report legislation to improve the nation's health care system. Following the guidelines of the resolution, the new legislation should:

1. foster economic growth and private sector job creation by eliminating job-killing policies and regulations;
2. lower health care premiums through increased competition and choice;
3. preserve a patient's ability to keep his or her health plan if he or she likes it;
4. provide people with pre-existing conditions access to affordable health coverage;
5. reform the medical liability system to reduce unnecessary and wasteful health care spending;
6. increase the number of insured Americans;
7. protect the doctor-patient relationship;
8. provide the States greater flexibility to administer Medicaid programs;
9. expand incentives to encourage personal responsibility for health care coverage and costs;
10. prohibit taxpayer funding of abortions and provide conscience protections for health care providers;
11. eliminate duplicative government programs and wasteful spending; or,
12. do not accelerate the insolvency of entitlement programs or increase the tax burden on Americans.

Most importantly, we have pledged to keep the government out of the exam room. House Republicans will debate all solutions in an open and transparent manner throughout the 112th Congress.

MEMBER MEDIA OUTREACH

Highlight House Republicans' immediate congressional reforms and spending cut measures, including repeal of ObamaCare, adopted during the first few weeks of session:

-  Publish a "week in review" press release touting your help in keeping the Pledge to America.
-  Post messages on your blog and Facebook about what you're hearing at district events.
-  Tweet daily the feedback you're receiving at local meetings and events.
-  Participate in at least 2 local radio interviews.
-  Book a local TV hit and focus the message on spending cuts.
-  Publish a column in a local newspaper highlighting the Pledge to America and your role in keeping it.
-  Meet with an editorial board to talk about our efforts on spending cuts and creating jobs.

SOCIAL MEDIA

ARE YOU USING IT EFFECTIVELY?

Social media provides Members of Congress an opportunity to listen and respond to constituents, share news, provide analysis, and involve the public in their daily work. The three networks with widespread adoption on the Hill are YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter. Effective use of these networks is a key ingredient in a successful overall media plan for your office and for the Conference team.

Are you one of those top 8 Members? Why not? What can you do during the Constituent Work Week to improve your new media plan? Here is a checklist for success:

Step 1: How Does It Work: Learn what each service has to offer. A few potential uses:

- **Involve:** Invite constituents to share ideas and engage with your day-to-day work.
- **Share:** Publish updates to your networks, and see what others are saying.
- **Press:** Quotable or newsworthy updates may spark the interest of reporters.
- **News:** Keep pace with events in real time as they happen, and give your reaction.

Step 2: What to Share: Focus on your goals and daily work in Congress. Keep it fresh.

- **Legislative:** Post updates on votes, committee hearings, testimony, and speeches.
- **Analysis:** Follow your colleagues, journalists, share news stories, and provide analysis.
- **People Helper:** Solve problems and gather valuable anecdotes and stories.

Step 3: Select Tactics: Confront the potential risks and benefits.

- **Determine** appropriate internal procedures to solicit, process, and respond to feedback.
- **Cross-promote** content through your website, e-newsletter, blogs, and social media.
- **Etiquette:** Be responsive, courteous, helpful, informative, and conversational.

Step 4: Staff Time: Allocate or re-align staff resources to achieve your specific goals.

- **Hold** brainstorm sessions with your policy and communications staff.
- **Designate** a staff member to be responsible for your New Media program.
- **Budget** for purchases or expenditures related to equipment and software.

Step 5: Implement Your Plan, and Measure Your Success:

- **Track** number of shares, comments, likes, clicks, site visits, and other useful metrics.
- **Set** realistic benchmarks, and revisit quarterly.

Some material adapted from General Services Administration and Congressional Management Foundation.

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